

Senate Bill 44

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Tolleson of the 20th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th, Thomas of the 2nd, Smith of the 52nd and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fire protection and safety, so as to provide a short title; to provide definitions; to provide for the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council to develop and offer fire officer development training through the Georgia Fire Academy; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "2007 Georgia Fire Officer Development Act."

SECTION 2.

Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fire protection and safety, is amended by revising Code Section 25-4-2, relating to definitions, as follows:

"25-4-2.

As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) 'Airport' means any airport located in this state which has regularly scheduled commercial air carrier service or commuter airline service as required for certification under Section 139.49 of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

(2) 'Airport firefighter' means any person assigned to any airport located in this state who performs the duties of aircraft fire fighting or rescue.

(3) 'Candidate' means a prospective firefighter who has not yet been certified by the council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

(4) 'Certified firefighter' or 'state certified firefighter' means any firefighter who has been certified by the council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

(5) 'Council' means the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

(6) 'Fire department' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 25-3-21.

(7) 'Fire officer' means an individual who is a full-time employee, part-time employee, or volunteer for a municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department who has responsibility for supervision of firefighters and fire department support personnel or responsibility for system management for the fire department.

(8) 'Firefighter' means a trained individual who is a full-time employee, part-time employee, or volunteer for a municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department and as such has duties of responding to mitigate a variety of emergency and nonemergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk, which may include without limitation fire suppression; fire prevention activities; emergency medical services; hazardous materials response and preparedness; technical rescue operations; search and rescue; disaster management and preparedness; community service activities; response to civil disturbances and terrorism incidents; nonemergency functions including training, preplanning, communications, maintenance, and physical conditioning; and other related emergency and nonemergency duties as may be assigned or required; provided, however, that a firefighter's assignments may vary based on geographic, climatic, and demographic conditions or other factors including training, experience, and ability.

~~(7)~~(9) 'Full-time' means employed for compensation on a basis of at least 40 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

~~(8)~~(10) 'Part-time' means employed for compensation on less than a full-time basis by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

~~(9)~~(11) 'Volunteer' means not employed for compensation by but appointed and regularly enrolled to serve as a firefighter for any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department."

SECTION 3.

Said title is further amended by revising paragraphs (10) and (11) of Code Section 25-4-7, relating to the functions and powers of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, and adding a new paragraph (12) as follows:

"(10) To certify any person satisfactorily complying with the training program established in accordance with paragraph (9) of this Code section and the qualifications for employment covered in this chapter; ~~and~~

(11) To issue a certificate to any person who has received training in another state or who has received training as a federal firefighter by the United States government, when the council has determined that the training was at least equivalent to that required by the council for approved firefighter education and training programs in this state and when the person has satisfactorily complied with all other requirements of this chapter; and

1 (12) To develop and offer in conjunction with the Georgia Fire Academy a program of
2 training for fire officers and firefighters who desire to become fire officers to include, but
3 not be limited to, instruction in the subjects of leadership development; planning; and
4 skills development in personnel supervision, oral and written communication, business
5 management, succession management, collaboration with public officials, and public
6 information dissemination."

7 **SECTION 4.**

8 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code Section 25-7-9 to read as follows:

9 "25-7-9.

10 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'fire officer' means an individual who is a
11 full-time employee, part-time employee, or volunteer for a municipal, county, state, or
12 private incorporated fire department who has responsibility for supervision of firefighters
13 and fire department support personnel or responsibility for system management for the fire
14 department.

15 (b) The Georgia Fire Academy is authorized to develop and offer in conjunction with the
16 Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council a program of training for fire officers
17 and firefighters who desire to become fire officers to include, but not be limited to,
18 instruction in the subjects of leadership development; planning; and skills development in
19 personnel supervision, oral and written communication, business management, succession
20 management, collaboration with public officials, and public information dissemination."

21 **SECTION 5.**

22 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2007.

23 **SECTION 6.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.